

Remarks

This is in response to the Restriction Requirement for the above-identified patent application mailed February 24, 2004.

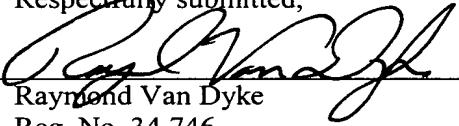
In the Restriction Requirement, the Examiner requests restriction between claims 1-44. Applicants respectfully draw the Examiner's attention to the Preliminary Amendment that was filed with the application on January 17, 2002, in which claims 1-44 were canceled and new claims 45-51 added. Applicants again respectfully submit that these new claims are identical to the claims previously allowed in the parent application (USSN 09/295,999), other than for some minor typographical corrections. Applicants, accordingly, do not believe that claims 45-51 warrant restriction.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the instant Restriction Requirement, and consideration of new claims 45-51 on the merits. In view of the prior allowance of these substantially identical claims, Applicants respectfully submit that the instant application is now in condition for allowance and request that it be passed to issue.

March 24, 2004

Date

Respectfully submitted,


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